

REMARKS

Claims 11-26 are pending in this application with claims 1, 15 and 20 being amended and claims 2 and 21 being cancelled. Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claims 2 and 21, respectively.

Objection to claim 15

Claim 15 is objected to for certain informalities. Claim 15 has been amended in accordance with the comments of the Examiner to correct a typographical error and change its dependency from claim 1, cancelled in a previous response, to claim 11, added in the previous response.

Claim 11-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 11-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Collings (US Patent 5,828,402).

The present claimed invention recites a system for selectably controlling viewing and recording of television programs. The system includes at least one viewer profile establishing a set of limits for blocking images outside said limits from view; at least one limit, the limit being selected from the group comprising: program ratings, spending, channel, view time limits, time of day limits, image content ratings; and at least one override list including at least one override instruction applicable to said at least one viewer profile. The override list overrides at least one of the limits. A conflict resolver is also provided to resolve conflicts between override instructions. All independent claims include limitations directed to the conflict resolver.

Collings neither discloses nor suggests "a conflict resolver for resolving conflicts between said override instructions" as in the present claimed invention. The Examiner cites column 17, lines 8-19 of Collings as well as Figure 5B as support for his contention that Collings includes such a conflict resolver. However, this passage

merely discloses a menu which may be navigated by a user to individually enable or disable features of the apparatus. Enabling or disabling of the features of the apparatus are controlled by the user. In other words, the user is able to selectively either enable or disable the override commands. This is unlike the present claimed invention which includes the conflict resolver to resolve conflicts between two or more override instructions. As discussed in the present specification, at certain times, certain override commands may conflict with one another. The conflict resolver, based upon a preset override mode, e.g. "least restrictive", "most restrictive", resolves the conflict between the override commands, allowing the override most closely associated with the preset mode to control. An example, as discussed in the specification, of a situation in which a conflict between overrides exists is when a user has set an override for a predetermined amount of time during which a channel may be viewed which is about to expire and an additional override for viewing a specific program on the same channel which ends after the predetermined period expires. The conflict resolver allows one of the override commands to control viewing of the channel based upon the preset mode. Collings only allows a user to selectively enable or disable all override commands. Collings neither discloses nor suggests means for resolving conflicts between overrides which conflict with one another.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is not anticipated by Collings. It is thus further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at the phone number below, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

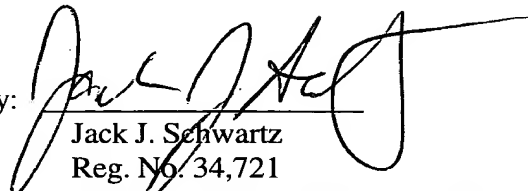
Application No. 09/475,447

Attorney Docket No. RCA 89,894

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 50-2828.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date: 4/13/04

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